

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

21 December 1981

The Honorable Paul E. Tsongas
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tsongas:

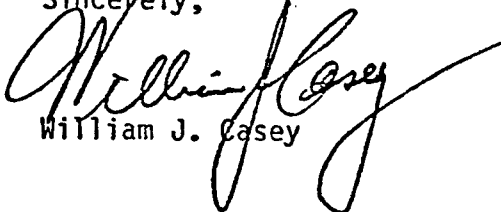
Thank you for the letter which you, along with Senators Pell and Dodd, addressed to me on 11 December about the testimony presented by [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the situation in Central 25X1
America and the Caribbean. I have reviewed and had two other senior officials review [redacted] testimony. All of us are committed to the obligation to 25X1
provide professional, impartial and balanced intelligence judgments to all Congressional Committees and policymakers.

[redacted] did make questionable use of one unconfirmed report about 25X1
"smuggling in Mexican and Guatemalan army uniforms for possible use in creating an incident," citing this as an example of "conspiracy politics" and "possible deceptive violence." Beyond that, we found [redacted] 25X1
testimony reasonably balanced and sound. He and [redacted] of DIA and 25X1
[redacted] who has been the principal CIA briefer on Central America, 25X1
appear to have worked out their presentation together and believe that the presentation was fairly made.

This is [redacted] first testimony as an intelligence officer. I am 25X1
confident that he will understand and observe the distinction between intelligence assessments and foreign policy advocacy in his future appearances. In this instance, testimony from [redacted] was specifically requested in 25X1
light of his deep knowledge of the area. This quality has already proven valuable and will continue to be valuable as he gains more experience in the role of an intelligence officer.

I and my colleagues very much appreciate your bringing your concerns to our attention and I want to assure you that we intend to be diligent in seeing that testimony of the Intelligence Community is confined to intelligence assessments and does not spill over into foreign policy advocacy.

Sincerely,


William J. Casey

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- 1 - DDCI
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